

Youth Advisory Board Minutes  
November 5, 2015

**Members present were: Emily Daigle, Pam Harrison, Eric Knapp, Leslie Esoian, Maria Alfonso, Colleen Keane, Jeanine Berasi, Ryan Berasi, and Todd Willard. Also present were: Rachael Sunny-Youth Development Manager, Erica Teixeira-Assistant Director of Social and Youth Services, Katie Mezick-Social and Youth Services Intern, and Kathy Bagley-Director of Social and Youth Services.**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Acting Chairperson Leslie Esoian.**

**Approval of October 1st 2015 Minutes:**

- Maria Alfonso made a motion to accept the minutes and Todd Willard seconded. All approved.

**Financial Report:**

- The account balance is \$7,043.02.

**Youth Services Report:**

- Friday Night Hang Out
  - 6<sup>th</sup> grade has approximately 120 youth registered and 7<sup>th</sup> grade has about 50 youth registered. Discussions around having 8th grade combine with 7<sup>th</sup> grade next year. Also, discussed possibly using the new Discovery Academy for space in the future.
- a.s.A.p. (formally Crossroads)
  - Fall session is taking place at the middle school. Cooking and Lights, Camera, Action are being offered.
- Intramurals at the Middle School
  - Fall intramurals have started and going well. Keane Foundation awarded a grant to support 80 youth to participate, each youth will be able to attend twice a week. Such activities as dodge ball, basketball. Leslie mentioned to keep an eye out to reapply for the grant this upcoming year.
  - Police and Youth Grant- Social and Youth Services has been awarded \$10,000 for this year. Program has started and is full. Monthly fun and interactive activities with youth and police, as well as stuff a cruiser fundraising event (for Wethersfield Food Bank).

**Old Business:**

- **Hunger Action Team – update**
  - Erica Texeira gave an update - The first Hunger Action Team Meeting was held on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and was attended by over 20 community members. Everyone felt the first meeting was successful and will be holding the second meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Food Share was able to give out specific information regarding hunger in Wethersfield and asked partners to bring others to the table to work on the issue.
- **Mentoring Program**
  - Rachael Sunny has been in communication with the Governor's Prevention Partnership, and continues to work on getting the coordinator from West Hartford to present at a meeting.

The coordinator is still on medical leave so Rachael will be looking to have Hannah from the Governor's Prevention Partnership to discuss the program at our next meeting.

**New Business:**

- **Youth Advisory Board Vacancies**

- o The board has vacant slots and looking to fill them. Members discussed ideas regarding recruitment. Ryan Berasi (Wethersfield middle school youth) showed interest in joining as well as Pam Harrison (Wethersfield Resident, and High School Psychologist). Maria Alfonso mentioned she can look into the process of filling the vacancies. The group will continue to try and reach Michael Scavetta regarding attending YAB meetings.

- **CASAC grant/Needs Assessment Survey**

- o The Capital Area Substance Abuse Council yearly grant application has been submitted Social and Youth Services will be getting a slight increase in funds which will make the total grant \$5,323.00. Social and Youth Services plans to use the funds similar to the years prior - afterschool programs, substance prevention conference, possible parenting programs, and possible needs assessment.
- Sub-committee to plan annual recognition event- The board supported the idea of a sub-committee and will bring suggestions and interest to the next meeting. We will take a look at availability with the community center and moving the event date to March or April.
- Sub-committee to fundraise for camp scholarships – Social and Youth Services offers help with camps to families that are in need. Each youth that qualifies can receive up to \$200 for one camp session. Currently the donated fund is extremely low. We are looking to the board for support in fundraising in order to continue offering the program. The board supported the idea of a sub-committee and will bring suggestions and interest to the next meeting.

At 8:20pm Maria Alfonso made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Colleen Keane.

Next meeting is December 10th, 2015, at 7:00 PM Town Hall, Lower Level, and Conference Room #1.

Respectfully submitted:

Erica Teixeira